

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 IO-13 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 849

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GE UR

SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL: SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE

1. SOVIET PRESS, WHICH HAS BALLEYHOOED WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL AS COMING TOGETHE OF YOUTH FOR "PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP," IS PORTRAYING EVENT AS ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT, WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR WELL-KNOWN SOVIET POLICIES. LITTLE ANTI-AMERICANA, EXCEPT BY INFERENCE HAS BEEN NOTED. COVERAGE HAS BEEN HEAVY, WITH LENGTHY KAILY ARTICLES IN ALL PAPERS AND THRICE-DAILY TELEVISION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING TWO-HOURS, PRIME-TIME PROGRAM OF HIGHLIGHTS, MAILY DEVOTED TO INTERVIEWS AND CULTURAL AND SPORTS EVENTS.

2. MAIN FESTIVAL THEMES REPORTED BY PRESS ARE "SOLIDARITY" OF YOUTH WITH TREND TOWARD INTERNATIONAL PEACE, SECURITY, AND COOPERATION, "NATIONAL LIBERATION," AND "ANTI-IMPERIALISM." BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE TO FESTIVAL, WHICH FRONTPAGED ALL PAPERS JULY 29, STRESSED ROLE OF YOUTH IN FURTHERING REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS,

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PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, COOPERATION AMONG DIFFERING

SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS, AND STRUGGLE AGAINST ATTEMPTS OF "REACTIONARY, AGGRESSIVE FORCES TO RESTORE SPIRIT OF COLD WAR." US POLICIES RARELY REPORTED AS BEING CRITICIZED OR EVEN MENTIONED AT FESTIVAL, EXCEPT INFERENTIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH MEETINGS ON "STRUGGLE", OF VIETNAMESE, ARAB AND AFRICAN YOUTH AGAINST "IMPERIALISM." ONLY NON-SOVIET DELEGATES ARE QUOTED OR INTERVIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH EVEN VAGUELY ANTI-US SUBJECTS.

3. PRESS REPORTING HAS ATTEMPTED TO DEPICT FESTIVAL AS REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL OPINIONS OF YOUTH OF "ALL CONTINENTS AND OF VARIOUS POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS VIEWS." SOVIET DELEGATION SHOWN IN ALMOST ELDER STATESMAN ROLE OFFERING BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE. PRAVDA, AUGUST 2, REPORTED US ATTENDANCE AS 300 DELEGATES FROM "MANY DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS," AND QUOTED US DELEGATE, "26 YEAR-OLD ROY ANDERSON OF PHILADELPHIA," AS STRESSING VALUE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN CAPITALIST AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND PRAISING BREZHNEV VISIT IN THIS REGARD.

4. COMMENT: COVERAGE OF FESTIVAL CONTINUES PRESS TREND OF NOT CRITICIZING US DIRECTLY, WHILE EMPHASIZING LEADING ROLE OF SOVIET UNION IN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE." IN RELATED ITEM, PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 1 THAT MOSCOW "WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE-LOVING FORCES" HAS BEEN SCHEDULED OCTOBER 25-31 (INSTEAD OF EARLY OCTOBER).
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